THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't make anything complicated in the House. There is nothing complicated about it. If you want, the Minister will lay it on the Table of the House and we can have clarifications tomorrow. So, you will have enough time to read it. But, it will be improper if he has made it in Lok Sabha, and does not make it here.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal): Madam, I just want a clarification as to how it leaked to the Press. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is not as it happened. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: The question is very simple. It is a question of its going to the Press.

उपसभापति : आप बैठिए। मैं आपको बता रही हूं । जो उन्होंने मुझे कहा मैं वही तो बताऊंगी। उन्होंने कहा कि डिसिज़न जब हुआ तो वह उसे हाउस में प्रॉपरली लाना चाहते थे, वह लेट हो गया था । उसे वह कल लाने वाले थे । प्रॉपरली मेन लिस्ट ऑफ बिज़िनेस में दाखिल करके टाइम नक्की करके लाना चाहते थे लेकिन चूंकि अखबार में कहीं छोटी सी खबर छप गयी - अगर आपको नहीं बताते तो भी हाउस के लिए अच्छा नहीं होता । हम इनको पुल-अप करते । इसलिए यह आया है । इसमें नाराजगी की क्या बात है ? अगर आपको आज उस पर नहीं पूछना है तो मत पूछिए । वह स्टेटमेंट रख देंगे, कल पूछ लीजिएगा । मंत्री जी, आप टेबल पर रख दीजिए या पढ़ दीजिए, जो भी आप चाहें ।

STATEMENT BY MINISTER
New Uplinking Policy

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Madam, earlier, satellite TV channels were not permitted to uplink their programmes from India. However, as the hon. Members would recollect, satellite based TV channels have started beaming their programmes into India by uplinking their channels from hubs abroad since early nineties, as the satellite technology has become available. As a result, they have remained outside the Indian jurisdiction. In order to bring them back under the purview of the Indian laws, the uplinking policy was relaxed for the first time on 9.6.1998 and the Indian broadcasting companies with a minimum of 80% Indian share holding and Indian management control were permitted to

uplink their channels from India but only through VSNL. This permission was restricted to only those Indian companies, which were being released foreign exchange for uplinking from abroad. The policy was further liberalised on 26.3.1999 and all Indian companies which were broadcasters, with a minimum 80% Indian share holding and Indian management control were permitted to uplink their channels through their own earth station as well.

The Cabinet in its meeting on 25.7.2000 has decided to further liberalise the uplinking policy. As per the new policy, an Indian company, which need not be a boradcaster, will be permitted, subject to necessary security clearance, to set up uplinking hub or teleport facilities for purposes of hiring it out to broadcasters. Permissible foreign equity in such companies will be the same as in case of telecom sector, which is persently 49%, inclusive of NRI/OCB investments with Indian management control. These companies will be permitted to uplink only those TV channels which would be specifically approved or permitted by the Government. All TV channels, irrespective of their equity holding, ownership or management control will be permitted to uplink their programmes from India, subject to necessary security clearance, provided they undertake to comply with our broadcasting codes. This new policy will not only bring a large number of TV channels within the discipline of our broadcasting codes but will also generate substantial employment opportunities as India becomes an important hub offering state of the art facilities for uplinking.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) in the Chair]

Our news agencies have been seriously handicapped *vis-a-vis* their foreign counterparts as they have been deprived the use of the latest technology of Satellite News Gathering (SNG) for purposes of news gathering and their further distribution. Because of this handicap, the news disseminated by Indian News Agencies reaches the electronic and print media late and in the intervening period, contrary point of view remains unchallenged in the world media. The new uplinking policy of the Government would remove this handicap and permit uplinking facility to the Indian News agencies for news gathering and its further distribution to other news agencies/broadcasters. For this purpose, Indian news agencies would mean those incorporated in India and accredited by the Press

Information Bureau and 100% owned by Indians with Indian management control. This will give the Indian news agencies the much desired competitive edge over the foreign news agencies.

As in case of earlier policy, such uplinking facilities will be permitted with both Indian and foreign satellites. However, proposals envisaging Indian satellites will be accorded preferential treatment.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Thank you. I think, there are no names for seeking clarifications. Nobody wants to ask any clarifications.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Clarifications could be taken up tomorrow. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MD. SALIM (West Bengal) : Just now the List of Supplementary Business has come. In spite of that, on the request of the Minister and the Chair, we allowed him to make the Statement. That does not mean that there are no names.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): You should have given the names. Since no names have come, I presume that nobody wants to seek any clarifications.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN (Karnataka): We were not knowing that the Minister would make such a statement. The List has been circulated just now and how could the names come?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): एक एक करके बोलिए ।

श्री एन.के.पी.साल्वे (महाराष्ट्र): सवा पांच बजे तो सरकुलेट हुआ है इसलिए अपने नाम देने के लिए वक्त नहीं था ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): सवा पांज बजे नहीं, पौने पांच बजे । मैंने भी अपना नाम दिया था पर मैं तो सवाल नहीं पूछ रहा? आप सरकुलेट करते वक्त अपना नाम दे देते ।

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Sir, the Deputy Chairman has already ruled that clarifications could be asked tomorrow.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): I do not know. Has it been ruled like that?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, yes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): If the ruling from the Deputy Chairman is that we can ask clarifications tomorrow, then I adjourn the House till 11 a.m. tomorrow.

The House, then, adjourned at forty-five minutes past four of the clock, till eleven of the clock, on Thursday, the 27th July, 2000.